

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170278
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRATFTED BY: S/S-O: TMARTIN: WLT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170278

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT ACAIRO 12144 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 21.

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 12144

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF US

SUBJ: BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 170055

1. AFTER BILL MAYNES' MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY,
I STAYED BEHIND TO PROVIDE REFERENCE ORAL REPORT ON
BEGIN VISIT. I ASKED THAT IT ALSO BE GOTTEN TO SADAT
ASAP. I THEN WENT THROUGH THE MESSAGE IN DETAIL WITH
FAHMY.

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2. FAHMY LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, BUT WAS NOT OVERLY
HAPPY WITH THE MESSAGE. HE COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD
HEARD MORE ABOUT THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL THROUGH BEGIN'S
PRESS STATEMENT THAN HE HAD THROUGH OUR MESSAGE. I
REMIND HIM THAT OUR MESSAGE INDICATES THAT BEGIN
HAD DETAILED THE PLAN IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE. WHILE
MESSAGE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SO STATE, ASSUMPTION

CLEARLY IS THAT GOE IS AWARE OF THE DETAILS AND THAT THESE
NEED NOT BE REPEATED IN MESSAGE.

3. FAHMY STILL INSISTED HE NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT PRECISELY
BEGIN HAD SAID ON WITHDRAWAL, SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT
TO SINAI. THE ISRAELIS HAD LEAKED SOMETHING ABOUT IT,
BUT GOE WANTS A MORE AUTHORITATIVE VERSION. HE CONTINUED
TO CARP THAT ISRAELI PRESS STATEMENTS PROVIDE MORE
INFORMATION THAN OUR MESSAGES DO. EVERYTHING IN OUR
MESSAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN THE PAPER EXCEPT
WHAT HE CALLED THE "ESSENTIALS OF PEACE." SO FAR AS
THE LATTER ARE CONCERNED, WE COULD DO NO BETTER THAN
TO USE THE DEFINITION SET FORTH IN THE EEC STATEMENT.
IF THE ISRAELIS ACCEPT THIS, THE MIXED COMMISSIONS COULD
MEET TOMORROW.

4. FAHMY REITERATED THAT WHAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IN
ADVANCE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IS THE DETAILS OF THE
ISRAELI POSITION ON SIANAI AND THE GOALAN. THIS, HE
CONTENDED, IS NECESSARY TO GIVE SADAT AND HIM TIME TO
"PREPARE ALTERNATIVES" FOR THE UP-COMING TALKS WITH THE
SECRETARY. IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT GOE TO GIVE
IMPRESSIONS ON IMPORTANT MATTERS SUCH AS THESE WITHOUT
ADEQUATE TIME FOR REFLECTION. MOREOVER, THE ISRAELIS
HAD TALKED ABOUT HAVING SHOWN MAPS TO PRESIDENT CARTER.
OUR MESSAGE SAYS NOTHING ABOUT MAPS. IF UP-COMING TALKS
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WITH THE SECRETARY ARE TO BE PRODUCTIVE, FAHMY ARGUED,
GOE NEEDS MORE ADVANCE INFORMATION ON DETAILS.

5. EARLIER IN MY SESSION WITH HIM, WHEN MAYNES WAS
STILL PRESENT, FAHMY REFERRED TO BEGIN PRESS CONFERENCE
IN WHICH ISRAELI PRIMIN REPORTEDLY SAID ARABS MUST END
STATE OF BELLIGERENCY BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE. FAHMY
SAID THIS WAS OUTRAGEOUS SINCE TO DO SO WOULD MEAN THAT
EGYPT LEGALIZES ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ITS TERRITORY.
FAHMY CALLED THE BEGIN STATEMENT A REAL CHALLENGE TO
PRESIDENT CARTER BECAUSE IT WAS MADE WHEN HE WAS AN
OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON. FAHMY
SAID HE EXPECTS SOME COMMENT ON THIS STATEMENT FROM
WASHINGTON. IF EGYPT AGREED TO END STATE OF BELLIGERENCY
BEFORE GENEVA OR TO DISCUSS IT AS FIRST ITEM, THEN THERE
WOULD BE NOTHING ELSE TO DISCUSS. END OF BELLIGERENCY,
FAHMY EMPHASIZED, MUST COME AS LAST STEP AFTER WITHDRAWAL.
FAHMY ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW HE WAS EXPECTED TO EXPLAIN
BEGIN'S STATEMENT TO THE ARAB PUBLIC. HE KNEW IT WAS NOT
USG POSITION, BUT BECAUSE BEGIN MADE IT IN WASHINGTON, THE
ARAB MAN IN THE STREET BELIEVES IT IS ALSO USG POSITION.
IF GOE WERE TO REACT SPONTANEOUSLY TO SUCH STATEMENTS,

THEN GENEVA WOULD BE OFF.

6. I RECALLED OUR MEETING OF YESTERDAY IN WHICH I HAD
URGED THAT GOE NOT REACT PUBLICLY TO BEGIN'S STATEMENTS.
THIS CONTINUES TO BE OUR COUNSEL. I WAS PLEASED THAT
GOE HAS NOT REACTED PUBLICLY TO BEGIN STATEMENT AND
HOPED IT WOULD XONTINUE EXERCISE RESTRAINT. AS HE KNEW,
WE HAD ALSO URGED ISRAELIS MAKE NO FURTHER PUBLIC STATE-
MENTS. IF PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE, THIS IS CLEARLY THE
TIME FOR QUIET DIPLOMACY.
EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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